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PLYMPTON ST. MARY

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

For the Year 1952

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

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PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Telephone No.: Plympton 2244

Medical Officer of Health:

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Deputy Medical Officer of Health:

Dr. S. Noy Scott, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Chief Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. R. T. Fedrick, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods, and Petroleum Inspector)

Sanitary Inspector:

Mr. R. Osborne, M.S.I.A.

(Also Inspector of Meat and other Foods)

Clerk:

Miss G. H. Prowse

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
of the
PLYMPTON ST. MARY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report on the health of the district for the year 1952. The Report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health Circular 2/53 of the 22nd January, 1953.

There was a considerable reduction in the number of notifications of infectious disease as compared with the previous year.

Again there was no confirmed case of Diphtheria during the year.

Three cases of Acute Poliomyelitis were confirmed during the year. These cases were carefully investigated but the source of infection was not found.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1953.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—66,600 acres, of which 174 are inland water.

Population—1931 Census	26,799
,, estimated to the middle of 1952	31,750

	General
Rateable Value	193,059

Amount produced by a 1d. Rate—

£787. 15s. 3d.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR 1952

Live Births

	Total	*M.*	*F.*	
Legitimate	401	194	207	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 13.19.
Illegitimate	18	12	6	
	419	206	213	
Still Births	13	8	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births, 30.09.
Deaths	396	224	172	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population, 12.47.

Deaths from Puerperal causes (heading 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :

	Deaths	*Rate per 1,000 Total (live and still) births*
No. 30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	33.41
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	32.41
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	55.55

Death Rate of Infants under 4 weeks of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	31.02
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	29.92
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	55.55

CAUSES OF DEATH

		Males	*Females*	1952	1951
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	2	2	4	10
2.	Tuberculosis, other	–	–	–	2
3.	Syphilitic disease	–	–	–	1
4.	Diphtheria	–	–	–	–
5.	Whooping Cough	–	–	–	1
6.	Meningococcal infections ...	–	–	–	1
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–
8.	Measles	–	–	–	–

CAUSES OF DEATH—*continued*

		Males	*Females*	1952	1951
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	1	1	2	–
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach ...	8	7	15	13
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	8	3	11	7
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast ...	–	7	7	7
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus ...	–	5	5	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	19	12	31	36
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	–	2	3
16.	Diabetes	1	1	2	4
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	30	29	59	59
18.	Coronary disease, angina ...	51	13	64	51
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	5	7	12	9
20.	Other heart disease	24	21	45	74
21.	Other circulatory disease ...	11	14	25	16
22.	Influenza	2	1	3	9
23.	Pneumonia	6	5	11	9
24.	Bronchitis	6	3	9	21
25.	Other diseases of respiratory system	5	2	7	6
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	–	4	2
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	4	2	6	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis ...	3	2	5	7
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate ...	3	–	3	7
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ...	–	–	–	–
31.	Congenital malformations ...	3	2	5	2
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	23	28	51	52
33.	Motor vehicle accidents ...	2	1	3	1
34.	All other accidents	1	4	5	7
35.	Suicide	–	–	–	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	–	–	–	–
		224	172	396	421

Deaths over 65

There were 316, viz.:	57	between	65	and	70.
	57	,,	70	,,	75.
	69	,,	75	,,	80.
	72	,,	80	,,	85.
	50	,,	85	,,	90.
	10	,,	90	,,	95.
	1	,,	95	,,	100.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The total number of notifications was 334, as compared with 1,064 during the previous year.

Scarlet Fever

19 cases were notified as compared with 53 during the previous year. Most of the cases occurred in the parish of Plymstock (10). The disease was of a very mild character.

Diphtheria

1 case of Diphtheria was notified during the year. The diagnosis was not confirmed.

Acute Poliomyelitis

4 cases were notified (3 paralytic and 1 non-paralytic) and were admitted to Hospital The diagnosis was not confirmed in one paralytic case.

Disinfection

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Council's employees under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspectors.

School Exclusions

During the year 87 notices were received referring to 541 children who were excluded from School because of communicable disease or because they were contacts in infected houses.

They were as follows : Scarlet Fever, 14 ; Chicken Pox, 170 ; Measles, 52 ; Whooping Cough, 23 ; Impetigo, 6 ; Mumps, 126 ; Conjunctivitis, 2 ; Acute Poliomyelitis, 3 ; German Measles, 143 ; Diphtheria, 2.

Tuberculosis (*See pages* 11 *and* 12)

With regard to the extent of notification before death, the following table shows the date of notification :—

Sex	*Age*	*Date Notified*	*Died*
F.	67	20. 1.40	27.9.52
M.	48	1. 4.42	29.9.52
M.	72	24. 8.52	28. 8.52
F.	72	23.10.52	26.11.52

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE FOR YEAR 1952.

Disease.	Bickleigh	Brixton	Cornwood	Ermington	Harford	Holbeton	Ivybridge	Newton and Noss	Plympton St. Mary	Plympton St.Maurice	Plymstock	Shaugh Prior	Wembury	Yealmpton	Totals
Scarlet Fever	–	–	1	–	–	–	2	–	5	1	10	–	–	–	19
Diphtheria	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	4
Pneumonia	–	1	–	4	–	1	3	1	3	–	14	1	–	6	34
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	2	–	4	–	–	2	11
Whooping Cough	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	6	1	22	–	–	–	31
Measles	1	1	1	1	–	–	1	4	44	–	154	–	3	4	214
Food Poisoning	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1
Dysentery	–	–	–	–	–	–	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	15
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Meningococcal Infection	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Totals	2	3	4	7	–	1	21	8	60	2	209	1	4	12	334

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND TOTAL DEATHS DURING THE YEAR 1952.

	AGE PERIODS (NOTIFICATIONS)													Removed to Hospital	Naval and Military Cases	AGE PERIODS (DEATHS)												
	Under one year	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 & over	Total			Under one Year	1 2	2 3	3 4	4 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 & over	Total
Scarlet Fever ...	–	–	–	2	2	10	5	–	–	–	–	–	19	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Diphtheria ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pneumonia	1	3	1	–	–	4	2	–	5	2	9	7	34	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	5	3	11	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Whooping Cough ...	1	7	4	4	4	8	–	1	–	–	1	1	31	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Measles	7	12	15	24	30	116	5	1	4	–	–	–	214	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Dysentery	–	2	1	–	–	–	3	2	1	2	1	3	15	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Food Poisoning ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Meningococcal Infection ...	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Totals ...	10	25	21	30	36	138	15	5	11	11	17	15	334	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–

TUBERCULOSIS.
NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1952.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES						DEATHS						Total No. of Cases	Total No. of Deaths
	Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.			Pulmonary.			Non-Pulmonary.				
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total		
Under 1 Year ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
1—5 ...	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
5—10 ...	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
10—15 ...	–	1	1	–	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
15—20 ...	–	1	1	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–
20—25 ...	2	1	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–
25—35 ...	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
35—45 ...	2	–	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–
45—55 ...	–	2	2	1	–	1	1	–	1	–	–	–	3	1
55—65 ...	1	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–
65 and upwards	1	1	2	1	–	1	1	2	3	–	–	–	3	3
Totals ...	6	10	16	3	2	5	2	2	4	–	–	–	21	4

With regard to Tuberculosis affecting employees in the milk trade, no case had to be dealt with, nor had any action to be taken with regard to the compulsory removal to Hospital under Section 172, Public Health Act, 1936.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Nursing Arrangements.—(Devon County Council). Owing to increased pressure of work, there are now 11 District Nurse/Midwives working in the area. Supervision is carried out by the County Nursing Officer.

Midwives.—The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council which investigates cases of Maternal Mortality and Puerperal Disease. There are 12 practising midwives in the District. All midwives in the area are qualified to administer analgesics.

Health Visitors.—There are three working in the Plympton Area, who carry out all duties under Section 24 of the National Health Service Act, 1946.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Maternity and Child Welfare.—The Devon County Council have six centres in the District : Plympton, Plymstock, Ivybridge, Yealmpton, Hooe and Turnchapel, and Roborough.

Venereal Diseases Clinic.—At the Venereal Disease Dept., South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre.

Where on account of the difficulty of travelling or other reason a patient is unable to attend the centre, free treatment can be obtained from certain specified general practitioners who have been approved by the Ministry of Health under Circular 2226.

In-patient Orthopaedic Treatment is available through the Devon Orthopaedic Association at Exeter, and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients the South-

West Clinic which deals with this district is held at Hartley House, Mannamead, Plymouth.

X-rays.—The Regional Hospital Board have apparatus for examinations at their Chest Clinics at Exeter, Torquay, Barnstaple and Plymouth.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum cases are admitted at any time to the Treatment Centre, South Devon and East Cornwall Hospital, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.

Tuberculosis.—The Regional Hospital Board have Sanatoria at Hawkmoor, Hawley and Didworthy.

Open-Air School.—The Devon County Council maintain a residential home for the rehabilitation of delicate and debilitated children at Oaklands Park, Dawlish. There is also an open-air school for delicate children at Torquay.

General Hospitals, used by residents :—

South Devon and East Cornwall, Greenbank Road, Plymouth.
,, ,, Devonport.
,, ,, Lockyer Street, Plymouth.
,, ,, Freedom Fields, Plymouth.
The Royal Eye Infirmary, Plymouth.
Underwood House Hospital, Plympton.
The Convalescent Home, Crownhill.
Plymouth Public Dispensary.

Isolation Hospital.—Cases of infectious disease are sent to the Isolation Hospital, Beacon Park Road, Plymouth. As in general hospitals, no charge is now made for maintenance either to the District Council or the patient.

Ambulance Facilities for Infectious Cases.—The Minister of Health has agreed to infectious patients being taken to the Isolation Hospital by the Plympton Ambulance Station.

Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents.—As from 1st January, 1951, an Ambulance Station was established at Harewood House, Plympton, by the Devon County Council through the agency of the British Red Cross Society, and deals with all cases and accidents.

Laboratory Work.—The Public Health Laboratory Service provides a service for the investigation of communicable disease and the examination of milk and water, ice-cream, foodstuffs, etc. We have received the greatest assistance and co-operation from this service.

Consultants.—Consultants are now obtained through the services of the Regional Hospital Board.

Vaccination and Immunisation are carried out through the general practitioner service, or at schools, school clinics and infant welfare centres by the County Council through the County Health Services.

Provision of Vaccine and Anti-Toxin.—Supplies of diphtheria antigen can be obtained from the County Medical Officer, 45 St. David's Hill, Exeter, and vaccine lymph from the Public Health Laboratory Service, 7 Dix's Field, Exeter.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

No action has been taken under the above Acts during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

Erme Water Scheme.—By the end of 1952 the intake and purification works was complete, Stewarts Hill and Portworthy Service reservoirs were well advanced and a considerable part of the mains between these reservoirs and Watercombe had been laid.

Main Supplies.—These are obtained from Yealm Head, Ivybridge and Lee Moor. All these waters are chlorinated but intermittent complaints are received with regard to the latter source when heavy rainfall is experienced consequent upon fine clay particles being introduced into the system. It is anticipated, however, that by the autumn of 1953 this source will have been replaced by the Erme Scheme.

It is estimated that about 80% of the houses in the district are served by mains, 14% are supplied by standpipe and the remaining 6% from private sources.

Approximately 78% of the population are served from the mains, 15% from standpipe and 7% from private supplies.

Water Sampling

During the year 228 samples were taken. 216 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination, and 12 samples for chemical analysis.

The following table shows the results of the samples taken from the 3 main supplies :—

Supply	*No. of samples taken*	*Presumptive Coliform Count per 100 ml.*			
		Class 1 (less than 1)	*Class 2 (1–2)*	*Class 3 (3–10)*	*Class 4 (Greater than 10)*
Ivybridge ...	105	52	3	8	42
Plympton ...	51	42	2	2	5
Yealm Head ...	46	43	1	1	1
Other Public and Private Supplies ...	14	1	–	5	8
Totals	216	138	6	16	56

3 samples from each of the main supplies were submitted for examination for plumbo solvency, to ensure that the preventive measures to restrain corrosive action were effective.

Water supplies to the various parishes are as follows :—

Bickleigh. Supplied from mains of Plymouth Corporation.

Brixton. Supplied from Council's Yealm supply. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are two standpipes in the village.

Brixton Torr, Coombe and Hornicombe are small places supplied by a local spring piped to standpipes.

Cornwood. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have a piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Lutton. Supplied from Yealm source, most of the houses have piped supply. There are six standpipes in the village.

Ermington. Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Westlake and Longbrook are supplied by well and pump.

Harford. Few houses—have own supply from spring (private).

Holbeton. Supplied from local springs, piped to village. A few houses have a piped supply, but most of the cottages are supplied from standpipes. The local supply has been improved by the construction of an additional reservoir of 10,000 gallons capacity.

Ivybridge. Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir. Most houses have piped supply.

Newton and Noss. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply.

There are 10 standpipes at Newton Ferrers, and five standpipes at Noss Mayo which supply the older cottages.

Plympton St. Mary and Plympton St. Maurice. Supplied from Lee Moor and Yealm sources. Most of the houses have piped supply.

Sparkwell. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes which supply the older cottages.

Lee Mill. Supplied from Ivybridge Reservoir. Some of the houses have piped supply. There are seven standpipes in the village.

Mount Pleasant and Venton. Supplied from local springs by pump and standpipes.

Plymstock. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supplies. There are six standpipes at Lower Hooe and Turnchapel.

Staddiscombe. Some of the cottages have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Shaugh Prior. Supplied from local source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes in the village.

Wotter. Supplied from local source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are four standpipes which supply cottages of English Clays Ltd.

Wembury. Supplied from Yealm source. Most of the houses have piped supply. There are three standpipes in the village.

Down Thomas. Supplied from Yealm source. Most houses have piped supply.

Yealmpton. Supplied from local springs, augmented from Yealm source in dry periods. Most houses have piped supply. There are eight standpipes in the village.

Dunstone. Supplied from local springs. Several cottages have piped supply. There are five standpipes in the village. All the villages consisting of more than a dozen houses have a piped supply.

All supplies are constant.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937

Part I of the Act

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises (1)	Number on Register (3)	Number of		
		Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers prosecut'd (6)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	43	20	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	104	46	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	147	66	—	—

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)
	Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred To H.M. Inspector (5)	Referred By H.M. Inspector (6)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1)	2	2	–	–	–
Overcrowding (S. 2)	–	–	–	–	–
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	–	–	–	–	–
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4)	–	–	–	–	–
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	–	–	–	–	–
Sanitary conveniences (S. 7) :					
(*a*) Insufficient	–	–	–	–	–
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective	–	–	–	–	–
(*c*) Not separate for sexes	–	–	–	–	–
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ...	–	–	–	–	–
Total	2	2	–	-	–

HOUSING STATISTICS

1. Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year :—

(1) (*a*) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 72

(*b*) No. of inspections made for the purpose ... 176

(2) (*a*) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 12

(*b*) No. of inspections made for the purpose ... 34

(3) No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 2

(4) No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 49

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers 25

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year :—

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners ... ... —

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners —

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :

(*a*) By owners ... ... —

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners —

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... —

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... —

I am indebted to the Housing Officer for the following information.

Pre-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied up to the commencement of the war in 1939 was 367, excluding houses transferred to Plymouth.

Post-War Housing. The number of houses completed and occupied during the post-war period up to December 31st, 1952, is as follows :—

Parish	*Name of Site*	*Number of Dwellings*
Bickleigh	Leatside (Roborough)	8
Brixton	Bellows Park	56 (including 2 shops)

Parish	*Name of Site*	*Number of Dwellings*
Cornwood	Newtown	6
Do.	Crossways	16
Ermington	Ermeside Cottages	6
Holbeton	Orchard Cottages	8
Ivybridge	New Estate	102 (including 2 shops)
Newton and Noss ...	Hillside Cottages	6
Do.	Butts Park	20
Plympton St. Mary	New Park (Lee Mill)	4
Do.	George Avenue	20
Do.	Woodford	104
Plymstock	Pomphlett Close	60
Do.	Hooe Estate	94 (including 2 shops)
Do.	Wembury Road (Elburton) ...	26
Shaugh Prior ...	Trethewey Gardens (Wotter) ...	30
Wembury	Uplands	6
Yealmpton ...	Yeo Park	6
	Total Dwellings ...	578

The number of houses under construction at the 31st December, 1952, is as follows :—

Parish	*Name of Site*	*Number of Dwellings*
Ivybridge	New Estate	6
Plympton St. Maurice ...	New Estate	142 (including 2 shops)
	Total ...	148

Further contracts now being executed or in course of preparation are as follows :—

Parish	*Name of Site*	*Number of Dwellings*
Plympton St. Mary	Woodford	10 (including 1 shop)
Do.	Lee Mill	12
Plympton St. Maurice ...	New Estate	32
Plymstock ...	Hooe Manor	96
Do.	Oreston	22
Yealmpton ...	New Estate	88
	Total ...	260

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor for the following details of work carried out in his Department during the year, in relation to Public Health.

Water Supply

Water Tower, Newton Ferrers, completed.

4″ and 5″ water mains laid to R.A.F. Married Quarters, Pomphlett.

4″ water main extended at Grange Estate.

3″ water main laid at Yealmpton Torre to replace old 1″ galvanised service.

Ivybridge and Ermington reservoirs emptied, cleaned and chlorinated.

Filters renewed at Houndall.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

Cornwood Sewage Works commenced.

Pomphlett pumping station and sewage disposal works substantially completed, laying of sewers commenced.

Housing (Roads, Sewers and Water Mains)

Hooe Housing site completed.
Newton Ferrers Housing site completed.
St. Maurice Housing site completed.
Work commenced on Yealmpton site.
Plans prepared for Hooe Manor Housing site.

General

Public Conveniences at Ridgeway, Plympton, completed.
Plans prepared for extension of Ivybridge Cemetery.

Refuse Disposal

Tipping has proceeded normally at Harewood.

WATER CONNECTIONS, 1952

Parish	*Connections during* 1952			*Total connections as at* 31.12.52		
	Normal	*Metered*	*Total*	*Normal*	*Metered*	*Total*
Brixton	2	1	3	200	19	219
Cornwood	3	1	4	203	6	209
Ermington ...	2	1	3	114	15	129
Harford	—	—	—	—	1	1
Holbeton	—	—	—	96	9	105
Ivybridge	—	1	1	575	40	615
Newton and Noss	17	—	17	431	23	454
Plympton St. Mary and St. Maurice	21	5	26	2259	120	2379
Plymstock	83	3	86	3098	127	3225
Shaugh Prior ...	30	—	30	51	5	56
Wembury	3	2	5	262	39	301
Yealmpton ...	1	4	5	191	17	208
TOTALS ...	162	18	180	7480	420	7900

This represents an increase of $2\frac{1}{3}\%$ in the number of consumers during the year.

PAROCHIAL DISTRIBUTION OF NON-COUNCIL HOUSES DURING 1952

Parish	*No. of Plans Approved*	*Representing No. of Houses*	*Houses Completed*	*Layout Plans Approved*
Brixton	–	–	1	–
Ermington	2	2	–	–
Harford	1	1	–	–
Holbeton	3	3	2	–
Ivybridge	1	1	–	–
Newton and Noss	8	8	3	–
Plympton St. Mary ...	19	21	5	1
Plympton St. Maurice ...	8	8	3	–
Plymstock	10	12	8	–
Shaugh Prior	2	2	–	–
Wembury	5	5	2	–
Yealmpton	2	2	1	–
TOTAL	61	65	25	1

REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE YEAR 1952

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADY AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work carried out by the Public Health Department during the year ending the 31st December, 1952.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE AND WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR

INSPECTIONS

Houses inspected under the Public Health Acts	13
Houses inspected under the Housing Acts, 1925 to 1936 ...	59
Visits in connection with Council house applications ...	727

Factories	66
Food Premises	268
Slaughterhouses, butchers' shops, farms, etc.	25
Dairies	27
Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936	22
Infectious Disease Investigations	27
Complaints investigated	168
Schools Inspected	2
Camps Inspected	6
Rodent Control	41
Drainage Work	389
Total No. of visits for all purposes during the year ...	3116

WORK DONE

Public sewers repaired	2
New drains laid to sewers	24
New drains laid to cesspits	26
Old drains repaired	12
Smoke tests made	109
Water tests	17
W.C. Compartments built	29
New W.C. pans fixed	58
Flushing cisterns fixed or repaired	58
Soil pipes and vent-shafts—erected	33
Intercepting chambers built and traps fixed	20
Inspection chambers built	68
Gully traps fixed	65
Lavatory basins fixed	31
Baths fixed	27
Kitchen sinks fixed	23
Choked drains cleared	36
Nuisances abated	56
Verminous premises disinfested	2
Rooms disinfected	32
Defective roofs renewed or repaired	26
Walls repaired	37
Plasterwork repaired	22
Ceilings renewed	19
Windows repaired or renewed	32

Kitchen ranges or firegrates repaired	13
Staircases repaired or lighted and ventilated	3
Courts, yards, or passages paved	9
Gutters and downspouts repaired	17
Dampness remedied	19
Floors repaired, renewed, or sub-floor ventilation obtained	21
Water supplies improved	18
Samples of water taken for chemical and bacteriological examination	228
Larders	6

DAIRIES

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. 31 distributors and 21 premises were registered by the Council at the end of the year. 27 visits to dairies were made during the year.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (RAW MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949, MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) (PASTEURISED & STERILISED MILK) REGULATIONS, 1949

The following licences were issued to dealers during the year :—

Dealers' Licences.	T.T.	9
	Pasteurised	15
	Sterilised	4
	Accredited	1
Supplementary Licences.	T.T.	4
	Pasteurised	5
	Sterilised	2

HOUSING

Housing Inspections. See table in Medical Officer of Health's section of the Report.

Rural Housing Survey. In connection with the report on Rural Housing prepared by a Sub-Committee of the Central Housing Advisory Committee, and Ministry of Health Circular 64/44, the total number of houses inspected since the commencement of the Survey is 3,917.

Slum Clearance. 4 houses in a Clearance Area, the Clearance Order of which was confirmed by the Minister of Health in 1936, were demolished.

Demolitions. One old house was demolished during the year by the owner, at the request of the Council, as it was in a dangerous condition.

Another unfit cottage became vacant and the owner agreed not to let it again for human habitation.

COUNCIL HOUSE APPLICATIONS

Interviewing of Council House Applicants has continued throughout the year. Visiting and re-visiting has involved a total of 709 visits of inspection, and in addition, a large number of applicants have been interviewed in the office.

Additionally, 18 visits have been paid to applicants for accommodation with other Local Authorities, principally the City of Plymouth.

The total number of visits paid in connection with this work was 727.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951

It is the duty of every Local Authority to cause to be buried or cremated the body of any person who dies or is found dead in their area, in any case where it appears that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body are being made. It was not necessary to do so during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951

This Act came into operation on the 1st April, 1952. It is necessary for a person keeping a Pet Shop to be licenced by the Council. 2 licences were granted during the year.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

	Type of Property				
	Local Authority	*Dwelling Houses*	*Agri-cultural*	*All other (including Business and Industrial)*	*Total*
1. Total number of properties in Local Authority's District.	40 (*approx.*)	11,000 (*approx.*)	650 (*approx.*)	550 (*approx.*)	12,240
2. Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1952 as a result of (*a*) notification (*b*) survey or otherwise.	(*a*) 11	145	–	10	166
	(*b*) 27	706	166	101	1,090
3. Number of properties inspected (see section 2) which were found to be infested by rats.	Major 4	–	–	–	4
	Minor 20	224	4	14	262
4. Number of properties inspected (see section 2) which were found to be seriously infested by mice.	–	2	–	2	4
5. Number of infested properties (under 3 and 4) treated by the Local Authority.	24	224	4	14	266
6. Number of notices served under Section 4 :— (1) Treatment	–	–	–	–	–
(2) Structural Works (i.e. Proofing)	–	–	–	–	–
7. Number of cases in which default action was taken by Local Authority following issue of notice under Section 4	–	–	–	–	–
8. Legal Proceedings	–	–	–	–	–
9. Number of " block " control schemes carried out	2				

RODENT CONTROL

In connection with the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949, no charge was made for work carried out at private dwellings, but the full cost of work at business premises was recovered.

One meeting of the Devon No. 4 Workable Area Committee was held during the year.

Co-operation has been maintained with the officials of the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and their advice is always appreciated.

Annual Test Baiting and/or maintenance work was carried out in 46 sewerage systems.

14 business premises, 224 private dwelling-houses, and 13 Sewage Disposal Works were also treated. The Council's Controlled Tips were treated on 13 occasions, and the Salvage Depot on 5.

The work was carried out by the Council's Rodent Operator, assisted part time by another workman in the Department. Numerous inspections were made and advice given to occupiers of land.

The methods advocated by the Infestation Division of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the extermination of rats and mice were used, the bait bases being damp sausage rusk, bread mash, oatmeal and sugar meal, and the poisons Zinc phosphide, arsenious oxide, red squill powder, Antu (alpha-naphthylthiourea) and Warfarin.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES, BUTCHER SHOPS, ETC.

Most of the meat retailed in the District is examined outside the district at the time of slaughter. The only slaughterhouse in use was inspected on 2 occasions. Meat from this slaughterhouse is examined at one of the Plymouth factories.

41 visits were made to butcher shops.

The total amount of meat and organs condemned as unfit for human consumption was 9 cwt. 2 qr. 12 lbs.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Bye-laws. Bye-laws with respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and the Sale of Food in the Open Air were made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, by the Council, and came into force on the 1st March, 1950.

No contraventions were detected during the year.

268 visits to food premises were made during the year, and a total weight of 9 cwt. 3 qrs. 20 lbs. condemned as unfit for human consumption.

13 premises were registered for the sale or manufacture for the purpose of sale of ice-cream, and 2 for the preparation and manufacture of sausages or potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

76 samples of ice-cream were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination. The results were as follows :—

PROVISIONAL GRADINGS

Grade	*Time taken to reduce Methylene Blue*	*Interpretation*	*Result*
1	4½ hrs. or more.	Satisfactory	74
2	2½ hrs.–4 hrs.	Fair	–
3	½ hr.–2 hrs.	Unsatisfactory	2
4	0 hrs.	Very bad	–
			76

PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE OF CALCIUM LICENCES

The undermentioned figures apply to the period from the 1st April, 1952, to the 31st March, 1953.

Petroleum Spirit

Number of licences renewed during the above period ...	78
Number of new licences issued during the above period	2
Number of licences transferred	3

Carbide of Calcium

Number of licences renewed during the above period ...	2

The total fees collected in respect of both Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium Licences amounted to £53. 4s. 6d.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

R. T. FEDRICK,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

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